



## Handling Library Materials

The topic of how to handle library materials is important for libraries who have open book drops or are implementing no-contact curbside pickup of library materials. The Minnesota Department of Health has developed the following guidelines about handling library materials.

The CDC indicates that the virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Guidance for precautions while handling materials includes:

- Wear gloves when possible.
- Remove gloves properly to prevent any possible contamination.
- Do not touch your face or other items, like your phone, while wearing gloves. In general, individuals should limit touching their faces to prevent the risk of spread.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (alcohol-based) after removing gloves or if gloves are unavailable.
- Continue to sanitize common surface and work areas, especially those that are frequently touched.
- Maintain social distance (e.g., 6 feet) from co-workers and the general public.

Materials should be kept in quarantine for up to 24 hours; a damp microfiber cloth should be used to wipe down items as they are being shelved or prepped for circulation. A library could also investigate using UV-C light, but there are additional considerations and expense to take into account before moving in that direction.

For other questions you may have about your particular situation, please feel free to reach out to the Minnesota Department of Health directly at [health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us](mailto:health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us).